

# Socio-Economic Dynamics of a slum in an Expanding City: A Study of Gurgaon, Haryana

Pooja Raghav, Aparna Joshi

**Abstract:** India, the seventh largest country by the area and second most populous country in the world, is a land of villages where majority of population still live in the villages which witness the migration of young people to big cities in search of better employment, more income and a decent way of life. However, most of the migrants are not able to afford the high cost of living in the urban areas and eventually end up living in slums. According to the 2011 census, the total population residing in slums in the country was 29,18,38,124 while the corresponding figure, as per 2001 census, was 22,31,11,858, thus, indicating an enormous increase in the number of slum dwellers. The number and size of slums is constantly increasing in the big cities. Slums are generally created in city places where people either live outside the city or inside the city in shanty settlements devoid of basic amenities of life like hygienic conditions, clean drinking water, proper sanitation and drainage, etc. This study deals with the socio-economic dynamics of an emerging slum in sector 57 of Gurgaon city in Gurugram district of Haryana. The aim of the study is to investigate the socio-economic conditions of the slum residents and give effective solutions to the problems faced by them. The study is completely based on primary data collected through questionnaires during field survey.

**Index terms:** Gurgaon city, socio-economic conditions, slum area, emerging slum

## I. INTRODUCTION

The word "slum" refers to informal settlements in which the condition of houses is bad and living conditions are very poor. The slum areas are often crowded and many people settle into congested areas within the city. Therefore, slums are generally created in city places where people either live outside the city or inside the city in shanty settlements devoid of basic amenities of life like hygienic conditions, clean drinking water, proper sanitation and drainage, etc. People suffer from many problems in slum areas such as high incidences of diseases, particularly, water-borne diseases like typhoid and cholera, and the most affected people are women and children. Besides, informal housing condition, lack of basic services, clean potable water, unsafe building structures, overcrowding and lack of sanitation facilities are other features of slum areas. In addition, the highly congested slums are marked by poverty and socio-economic deprivation which leads to broken families, unemployment, poor living standard, social exclusion etc.

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Slums are not a new phenomenon as they had started emerging when the industrialization had started and, hence, they have become part of the history of almost all cities, during the period of urbanization and industrialization [5].

The major reason for slum expansion is the migration of rural people towards the urban areas and that create a non-inclusive pattern and rapid growth in urbanization. Urban expansion is an increase in the size of the city with an increase in population. Urban expansion is also the cause of many issues such as the decline in air quality, increase in urban temperature, increase in surface runoff, increase in flooding, deteriorated water quality, decrease in cropland, and decrease in natural vegetation coverage and the decrease in water bodies.

Therefore, it is extremely important to plan very thoroughly at the local level in order to maintain a systematic urban growth pattern at the local and regional level. So, it is deemed necessary to conduct timely and accurate studies on the slums dwellers to understand their socio-economic conditions and take adequate measures to avoid their social exclusion which gives rise to numerous physical, economical and social problems in the cities.

## II. STUDY AREA

Gurgaon city is one of the fastest developing cities of north India located in southern part of Haryana. Making a modest beginning as a satellite town of Delhi, the city has emerged as the Information Technology (IT) hub of north India along with earning the tag of 'millennium city', 'industrial and financial nerve centre of Haryana' and 'golden goose of Haryana' because of its highly progressive character. Located on the coordinates 28.4595° N, 77.0266° E, the city had a population of 1,514,432 as per 2011 census, an enormous growth of 73.96 per cent over the population figure reported in 2001 census (870,539).

The Gurgaon city landscape presents a very contrasting picture where hundreds of *jhuggis* located in the slums can be seen with high-rise buildings and residential complexes in the backdrop. These slums are occupied with thousands of people which provide cheap workforce for the residences and offices in the nearby vicinity (Angad, 2016). The posh locality of sector 57 had witnessed the emergence of nearly 200 slums within a short span of 3 years till 2017. This rise in number was recorded despite of an administrative order in place which authorized taking down any unauthorized structures [4]. The present study deals with the socio-economic issues and problems

of one such slum in sector 57, Sushant Lok which had come up nearly one and a half years ago.



Image 1: Slum Settlements (with authorized settlements in the backdrop)

### III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The present study attempts to investigate the condition of the slums in sector 57 (Sushant Lok) in the light of the following objectives:

To investigate the socio-economic conditions of slums in the study area.

To explore the problems of health in the study area.

To give effective solutions to the various problems faced by the people.

### IV. SOURCES OF DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The study is totally based on the primary data as there were no related secondary sources available for the study. For this purpose, a questionnaire was prepared which was filled by the respondents selected on the basis of convenience sampling. Wherever required, interview method was also used. The data, hence collected was processed, analysed and interpreted using percentage method. Various statistical diagrams like pie, bars, etc. have been used in order to depict the collected data.

### V. DISCUSSION AND RESULT

#### A. Availability of Basic Amenities

Slums are usually unauthorized constructions which lack in basic amenities and infrastructure, to which the study area was no exception. It was found that all the households had electricity connections which the residents of the nearby residential complexes claimed to be illegal. The area lacked proper drainage and hence, water logging was very common which worsened during rainy season. The households didn't have toilet facilities and slum residents defecated in the open. Interestingly, a community toilet had been built recently by Ansal Housing Builders, who had many laborers residing in the study area, on the complaints of the residents of surrounding residential societies. However, the menace of open defecation still persisted as slum residents complained of non-maintenance of public toilet. It was further found that there was no shortage of drinking water in the study area as Municipal water supply through installed taps was

available once a day. There was also arrangement for garbage disposal as the Municipal Corporation had installed collecting bins in the study area. Until the installation of bin, residents had been throwing waste at one corner of the slum. Although the roads leading to the study area were *kutcha* (unmetalled) but the surrounding major roads were *pucca* (metalled.)

It is worth mentioning here that unlike in Delhi, the slums in this part of Gurgaon city have not come up on the government land but on the private land. Hence, the basic services are partly arranged by the owner of the land by liaising with the municipal corporation [1].



Image 2: Problem of water logging



Image 3: Water logging with residents filling the water from Municipal Supply Taps

#### B. Demography

Table 1 gives a detailed account of the family information of the same households. It was found that nearly four-fifth of the households [26] were headed by males while only 13.33 percent of households (4) had females as the head of the family. The family size of more than half of the households (16) ranged between 4 to 6 members. Nearly one-third of the households (9) had less than four members while less than two-fifth households (5) had more than six members in the family (Table 1).

**Table 1: Information about Family**

Family details	No. of households	Percentage of households
<b>Head of the family</b>		
Male	26	86.67
Female	4	13.33
<b>Size of the family</b>		
Less than 4	9	30
4-6	16	53.33
More than 6	5	16.67
<b>Type of family</b>		
Nuclear	11	36.67
Extended	16	53.33
Joint	3	10
<b>Elderly people in the family</b>		
Yes	4	13.33
No	26	86.67

Source: Primary Survey conducted in June-July 2018

More than half of the households (16) were extended family type whereas nearly one-third of them (11) were nuclear family. Only 10 percent of the households (3) were having joint family (Table 1). Further, nearly 86.67 percent of households (26) reported that there were no elderly people living there while the remaining 13.33 percent of households had elderly people. The survey revealed that majorly young population had moved in from their respective native places while the elder family members remained back.

**Table 2: Literacy and Educational Qualification**

Education level	No. of households	Percentage of households
<b>Males</b>		
Up to 8 <sup>th</sup>	6	20
Higher/Secondary education	8	26.67
Graduation	1	3.33
Illiterate	15	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Females</b>		
Upto 8 <sup>th</sup>	2	6.67
Higher/Secondary education	3	10
Graduation	1	3.33
Illiterate	22	73.34
Don't know	1	3.33
NA	1	3.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Primary Survey conducted in June-July 2018

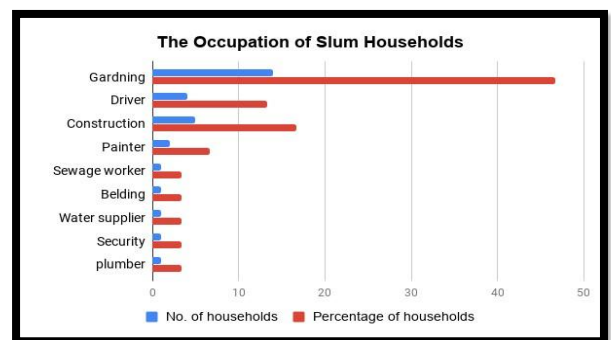
The illiteracy was found to be higher in females than in males due to gender inequality and poverty in their native place. Illiteracy among females prevailed in nearly three-fourth of the households (22) while half of the households (15) had prevalence of male illiteracy indicating difference of 23.34 per cent points in female-male illiteracy level (Table 2). In one-tenth of the households (3), females had obtained higher or secondary education while the corresponding figure for males was 26.67 per cent. In 6.67 per cent of households (2), females had studied up to 8<sup>th</sup> standard whereas the corresponding figure was 20 per cent (6) in case of males. Further, in one household, both male and female member had done graduation while in another

one, the female member had gone to the native place and family did not know about her educational qualification. Further, this question was not applicable to one household which had male members only.

**C. Socio-Economic Conditions**

The occupation of the slum dwellers was found to be diverse. Nearly half of the male respondents (14) were engaged in gardening. The percentage of male respondents engaged as construction worker, driver and painter was 16.77 percent (5), 13.34 percent (4) and 6.67 percent (2), respectively. Further, one male respondent each was working as sewage worker, welder, water supplier, security guard and plumber (Fig. 1). It was found that the females of these households either worked as house-maids in nearby localities or stayed at home to look after the young ones. The salary of the respondents varied according to their occupation. It was found that people who were engaged in mental/technical works were getting higher wages than those who were engaged in occupations involving physical work.

The study revealed that nearly two-third of the households (19) had 2 to 3 earning members. In one-fourth of the households (8), there were single earning members while in the remaining one-tenth households (3), four or more members were earning income. The monthly income of sample households displayed wide contrast. The monthly income of 40 percent of households (12) was less than Rs. 10,000 while another 40 percent of households (12) earned between Rs. 11,000 to Rs. 15,000 per month. Only 16.67 percent of the households (5) had monthly income of more than Rs. 15,000 while one household did not reveal any information.



Source: Primary Survey conducted in June-July 2018

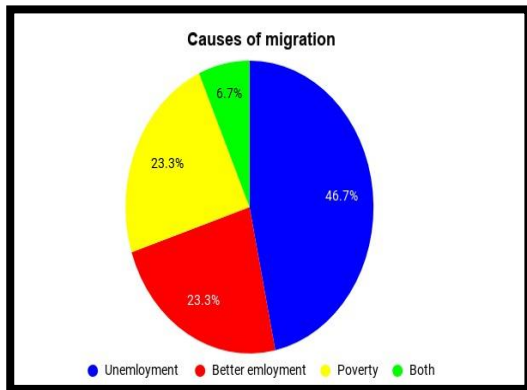
**Fig. 1**

Fig.2 reveals that four-fifth of the residents of sample households (24) were the natives of Uttar Pradesh State. Further, four residents were the natives of Bihar State while one each was from Andhra Pradesh and Gurugram. The major reason for migration of slum respondents to Gurgaon city was unemployment. Nearly half of households (46.67 percent) were forced to out-migrate





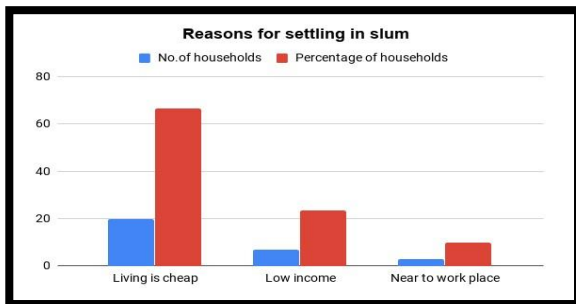
because of widespread unemployment in their native place. Nearly one-fourth of the households (7) had out-migrated because of poverty while another one-fourth household (7) had migrated in search for better employment opportunities. Further, 6.67 percent of households (2) had quoted both poverty and better employment as the reason for migration.



Source: Primary Survey conducted in June-July 2018

Fig. 2

As reported by two-third of households (20), the main reason for settling in slum was cheap cost of living. Nearly one-fourth households (7) chose to live in the slum due to poverty on account of low income while one-tenth of the households (3) quoted nearness to workplace as the reason (Fig.3).



Source: Primary Survey conducted in June-July 2018

Fig. 3

Although the study area was an new slum which started to emerge in 2017, yet, it was found that all the respondents had been living in slums over a long period in some other locations and had recently shifted to the current place. Half of the households (15) had been inhabiting slums for less than 10 years while about one-fourth of the households (8) had been inhabiting slums since 11 to 15 years. Further, 6.66 percent (2) and 16.67 percent (5) of the households had been living in slums from 15 to 20 years and more than 20 years, respectively (Fig.4).

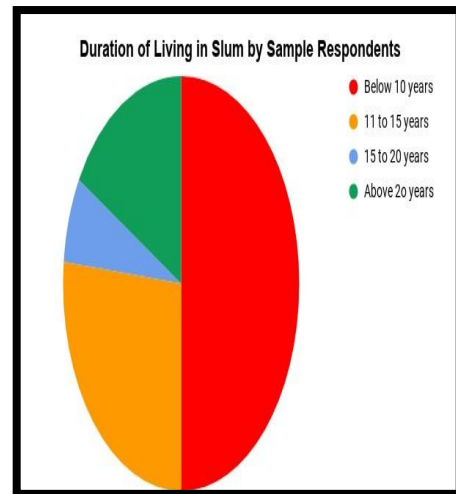


Fig. 4

The study area had a very recent history of emergence and all the surveyed houses constructed in it were *pucca* made out of bricks having corrugated iron roof. It was revealed by the respondents that earlier all these houses were *kutcha* which had been recently made *pucca*. Further, majority of the houses (28) had a single room while the remaining (2) had two rooms in them (Table 3).

Table 3: House Types and Rooms

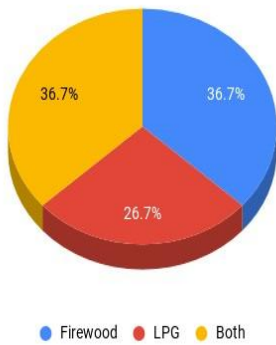
Type of House	No. of households	Percentage of households
<i>Kutcha</i>	0	0
<i>Pucca</i>	30	100
<b>Number of Rooms</b>		
One	28	93.33
Two	2	6.67
Total	30	100

Source: Primary Survey conducted in June-July 2018

Fig.5 reveals the types of fuel which was used for cooking purposes in the surveyed households. It was found that about one-third of households (11) were using firewood for cooking which was collected from the lands having dead vegetation which could be located even at far off distances. Another one-third of the households (11) used both firewood and LPG while the remaining nearly one-fourth of the households (8) were using only LPG for cooking. It is interesting to note that none of the households which were using LPG had authorized connections and they were purchasing the LPG cylinder

from market at high cost. Further, the households using firewood faced the problem of respiratory diseases due to inhalation of smoke generated as a result of burning wood.

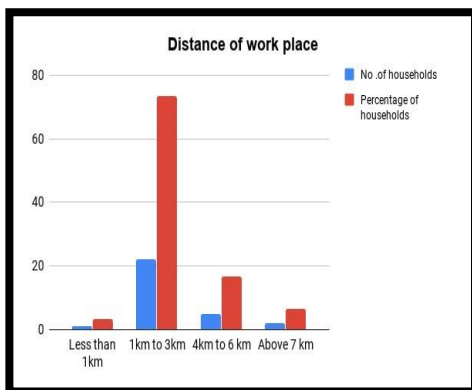
Sources of fuel for cooking



Source: Primary Survey conducted in June-July 2018

Fig.5

The distance of work place of sample respondents has been presented in Fig.6. Nearly three-fourth of households (22) were located at a distance of 1 km to 3 kms from their work place. The distance of work place of 16.67 percent of households (5) was about 4 km to 6 km while 6.67 percent of households (2) were located more than 7 km away from the place of work. Only one household (3.33) was located within 1 km from the place of work.



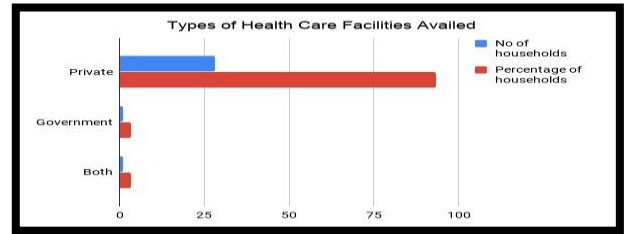
Source: Primary Survey conducted in June-July 2018

Fig. 6

#### D. Health Status

The types of health care facilities availed for treatment of illness of diseases has been given in the Fig.7. The maximum percentage of households, i.e. more than nine-tenth (28) availed the services from private health care centres. Only one household each preferred to government hospitals or both private and government health care centres at the times of need. During the field survey it was learnt that maximum number of slum dwellers visited private hospitals to avail medical facilities because of lack government health care facilities.

However, a very important fact which came to the light was that all the children living in the slums had not received all the necessary vaccinations.



Source: Primary Survey conducted in June-July 2018

Fig. 7

The monthly expenditure incurred on healthcare has been presented in Table 4. Nearly half of the households (14) spent less than Rs. 1000 per month on healthcare expenditure while for one-third of the households (10) the monthly expenditure was between Rs. 1000 to Rs. 2000. Further, 16.67 percent (5) and 3.33 percent (1) of the households were spending Rs. 2000 to Rs. 3000 and more than Rs. 3000 per month, respectively on the healthcare expenditures (Table 4). This clearly indicates the frequency of illness among slum residents due to the poor and unhygienic living conditions.

The marital status of women in study area revealed that majority of the women in surveyed households (27) were married and were living with their husbands whereas only two households (6.67 percent) reported unmarried women. Further, one household (3.33 percent) didn't have any female in them (Table 4).

Table 4: Health Status

Status	No. of household	Percentage of respondents
<b>Marital status</b>		
Married	27	90
Unmarried	2	6.67
Not applicable	1	3.33
<b>Nature of delivery</b>		
Institutional	22	73.34
Home	7	23.33
Not applicable	1	3.33

Source: Primary Survey conducted in June-July 2018

It was further found that nearly three-fourth of the households (22) reported to have institutional delivery either at hospital or nursing home. In about one-fourth of the households (7) the delivery of new born was done at home while this question was not applicable in one household which had male members only (Table 4).

Interestingly, few of the households were aware about some of the government schemes although they were not availing anyone of them. To the question asking about the perception of the residents of the surrounding residential

societies, the respondents revealed that they felt conscious about their low social status as the people residing in the surrounding localities looked upon them as unwanted and menace creator. At times, the respondents were also intimidated.

It is worthwhile noting here that the government of Haryana approved 'state slum in-situ rehabilitation policy' in early 2018 with the objective of providing housing, under public-private partnership model, to people living in either slums or on government land in urban areas all over the state. Under this policy, the selected developer of the housing unit would pay the slum dwellers a monthly sum of Rs. 3000 as rent till the housing units were made and the beneficiaries would get the ownership rights after 15 years. However, it would take enough time for the slum residents to take benefit from this policy as it is to be implemented all over the state where the number of slums was more than 30,000 in 2011 (Hindustan Times, 2018).

## VI. CONCLUSION

Slums are the product of urbanization usually resulting from the process of rural to urban migration. With the objective of understanding the various aspects associated with slums, the study had been conducted in an emerging slum in Sector 57 (Sushant Lok) of Gurugram city of Haryana. The slum had availability of electricity, drinking water, garbage disposal and roads (both kutcha and pucca) while the other amenities like latrine facility and proper drainage of water were found to be missing. In fact, the area suffered from water logging during rainy season. The study found that the slum dwellers had come from the backward areas of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar State where they were facing the problems of unemployment and poverty which forced them to migrate from their respective native states, therefore, ending up living in slums due to low income and low-cost living.

According to this study, majority of people migrated to the study area because of better employment opportunities and better income in Gurugram city. During the survey it was found that the slum people had fear of losing their jobs because of which they never complained about late salary payments which took 6 to 8 months in certain cases, eventually, leading to poor socio-economic conditions of slum dwellers. The slum residents did not possess any ration card and the wages of people remained relatively low in comparison to the growing prices of food and other commodities further putting pressure on their pockets.

It was further found that people preferred to go to the private hospitals rather than government hospital due to lack of proper facilities in them. Moreover, most of the households had low income so, whenever needed, financial help was sought from friends and neighbours since no financial support from the government was available. Further, the residents of surrounding posh localities looked at these slum dwellers as eye soars and blamed them of polluting the surrounding environment.

During the field survey it was found that the slum people had migrated from the previous location to current location when they were forced out of the area as the construction began which led them to face many problems due to lack of proper shelter and lack of basic facilities especially in the absence of any help from the government. Hence, the clearance of slum was not the solution for constructing fancy buildings. The government needs to ensure adequate availability of basic amenities and services, which will help the slum residents to enjoy a

decent way of living. Further, the government should support the slum residents financially and make them aware about various welfare schemes and programs by engaging NGOs and local administration. These efforts will lead improvement in the standard of living of the people and help them enjoy a decent life.

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## Annexure I

### QUESTIONNAIRE

#### General Information

1. How many members in the family?
2. Where did you come from?
3. How many years you've been lived here?
4. How many members are earning?
5. No. of elderly people (above 60 years)
6. What is the main occupation of the adults?
7. What is the monthly income of the family?
8. What is the marital status of women?
9. What type of family?
10. Gurugram city as native of sample respondents?
11. What were the reasons for settling in slums?
12. Who is the head of the family of sample households?
13. How many rooms in households?

#### Health Status of Sample Respondent

1. What type of health centre do you go to?
2. What is the nature of delivery system?
3. Vaccination of children?
4. Does the feeling of less social status by respondents due to present economic condition?
5. How much is the distance to work place from house?
6. Do you have access to any medical insurance by Govt/Private/NGO/SHG?
7. How often the member /members fall in sick?
8. How much family monthly expenditure on healthcare?

#### Basic Facilities in Households

1. What is the source of drinking water?
2. What is frequency of drinking water?
3. Is there scarcity of water problem?
4. What is the source of fuel for cooking?
5. Is there any type of Govt. Program helpfulness?
6. Is there a waterlogging problem in monsoon?
7. Is this slum electrified?
8. What type of road within the slum?
9. Is there the latrine facility?
10. Is there the arrangement for garbage disposal?
11. What is the attitude of local government towards them?
12. What is the attitude of city residents towards the slum residents?